

SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

TODAY: The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Next Sun: The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 55:1-11
1 John 5:1-9
Mark 1:7-11



CHRISTMAS SEASON – In the Catholic tradition the Christmas season ends next Sunday on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. You are encouraged to use the Christmas season as a special time of prayer in which you give thanks to God for God's presence with us in and through Jesus Christ. For families, it is particularly important that your children understand that Christmas is more than the one day on which many are blessed to receive gifts. It is this entire period in which the Church celebrates the truth that God is with us – in all times of our lives. Help your child to understand how God comes to us in prayer, in the sacraments and in the love and kindness we experience from family, friends and strangers. Each day of the Christmas season spend a few minutes with your child and ask him/her, "How was God present to you today?" This is a great way to reveal the true meaning of Christmas and an authentic way to 'keep Christ in Christmas.'

ELECTRONIC GIVING – Parish Pay is a safe, secure way for you to make your weekly contributions electronically. You determine the amount that you want to contribute weekly. Once a month, your total monthly donation will be withdrawn from your checking account or will be charged to your credit card. You can decide the day of the month that the withdrawal or charge will be made. You can include electronic payments for special collections as well. If you pay your utility bill or cable bill electronically, you know how convenient, easy and secure electronic payment is. If you are interested, there is a basket in the entrance of the church that has cards for you to fill out. Please fill out a card and return it to the office or in the collection basket on Sunday. Please be sure to place your card in an envelope as it will contain sensitive information. Please speak to Fr. Hallinan if you have any questions. Thank you!

NEW WEB ADDRESS – Our parish has a **new web address: www.olmcsi.org**. Please take a look at our website. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to leave a message for Fr. Gil in the rectory.

VENERABLE PIERRE TOUSSAINT SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS - Pierre Toussaint Scholarships are presented annually to a number of high school seniors, graduating from a Catholic, public or private school located within the Archdiocese of New York. The scholarship is an award of \$2,000 to be used in connection with attendance at a college, university or post-secondary educational institution of the student's choice. The scholarship may be renewed for three additional years if certain the student meets certain criteria. Information is available in the entrance of the church.

PRAYER to RESPECT LIFE -

God of life and love, you created us in your image and sent your Son to bring us life.
Instill in us a respect for all life, from conception to natural death.
Empower us to work for justice for the poor.
Nourish us that we may bring food to the hungry.
Inspire us to cherish the fragile life of the unborn.
Strengthen us to bring comfort to the chronically ill.
Teach us to treat the aging with dignity and respect.
And bring us one day into the glory of everlasting life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE –November 30, 2014 to February 2, 2016

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Weekly Offering: December 21: \$2657; December 28: \$2514; Christmas: \$6947. Thank you for your generosity!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION - Epiphany celebrates the wake up calls of life, the showings of God's majesty and power in the person of Jesus. The feast alerts us to look for signs of the Lord's grace and action in our lives today. In this context, the call of the Second Vatican Council to reform the sacramental life of the Church, including our pattern of care for the sick, is indeed a holy awakening. Prior to the 1960s, our care for the sick had collapsed in the popular imagination into something everyone called "last rites." An immensely complicated ritual, with anointing accompanied by quickly muttered Latin prayers, was enacted for a marginally conscious person at "death's door." By the time a priest was called, the sick person might not be able to receive viaticum, or derive much personal benefit from the ritual. The healing effects of the sacrament, investing suffering with the dignity of a link to Christ's cross, and the immense assurance of forgiveness for a person reviewing the life journey, were hidden. Suddenly, an epiphany swept through the Church, and the way we care for the sick was utterly transformed. It took several centuries, however, for the Church to reach that moment of renewal. —Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



The Epiphany of the Lord ~ January 4, 2015

All Kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. -Psalm 72:11

Weekly Mass Intentions



Mass Intentions

Saturday January 3

8:00am- † Ida, Charlie & Anthony Bianco

5:00pm- † Gilda Mammolito ~Anniversary in Heaven~

Offered By: Bianco Family

Offered By: Louis Mammolito

Sunday January 4

8:30am- † Mary Lou Brown

10:00am- † Mrs. Helen Valentine

11:30am~Living~ Special Intentions Gidget Gillespie

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

By: Delmeter Carey & Family

By: son, Thomas Valentine

Monday January 5

8:00am~Living~ Special Intentions Gidget Gillespie

12:05pm- † Marie Micillo

Offered By: Contardo Family

Tuesday January 6

8:00am~Living~Special Intentions Gidget Gillespie

12:05pm- † Thomas Quinlan

Offered By: Linda Graves

Wednesday January 7

8:00am~Living~Special Intentions Kathy Duffy

12:05pm- † Josepine Bruno

Offered By: Kathy Marshall

Offered By: Barbara & Mary

Thursday January 8

8:00am- † James Williams

12:05pm- † Angela & Antonio Cuccinillo

Offered By: Fr. Gil

By: daughter Rosa & Family

Friday January 9

8:00am- † Anna Caponegro

12:05pm~Living~ Special Intentions Patricia DeMeo

By: Joe & Joan Fortunato

Offered By: Joyce A. Pepo

Saturday January 10

8:00am- † Ciro Family

5:00pm-† Miriam Luciano

Offered By: Family

By: OLMC Friends & Staff

Sunday January 11

8:30am- † Charles Pommerenk

10:00am- ~Living~ In Thanksgiving

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Offered By: Wife & Family

Offered By: Crescencia Pascua

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle



Lectors & E.M. ~ Schedule for January 2015~

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Lectors: Linda Graves & Bill Hinton (carry Gospel Book) Substitute: Linda Graves

Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Hinton, Angelo Sabella & Linford Smith

Substitute: Peg & Tom Ventrudo

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Lectors: Joan Knighton & Linda Torres (carry Gospel Book) Substitute: Linda Torres

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Carbonaro, Delmeter Carey & Linda Torres

Substitute: MaryAnn Ugbo

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Alexis Crowdell (carry Gospel Book) Substitute.: Thelma Washington

Eucharistic Ministers: Lydia Moran, Diane Murphy & Thelma Washington

Substitute: Emmanuel Fode

The Gospel

story of the

Epiphany is rich in significance and we should savor every detail of this extraordinary story.

The three magi from the East. They symbolized the racial diversity of the non-Jewish world. They anticipated the proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples. These three magi from the East symbolize the desire of God for all people to receive salvation. They also remind us that racism, or prejudice, is a grave sin because not only do we blaspheme the divine image in which each of us is created, but we also call into question God's desire for the salvation of all people.

They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus was the true king of God's peoples hence the gift of gold. Jesus was also the High Priest of the people of God who offered himself to God as the perfect sacrifice that takes away all sins. Therefore, the incense symbolized his priesthood and the myrrh (the perfume with which the dead body of Jesus would be anointed) anticipated his death. The incense symbolized the continuous prayers that Jesus offered to his Father that rose before him like incense and symbolized the priesthood of Jesus Christ as he offered himself in sacrifice to his Father on the cross.

The magi do not return to Herod, but, instead, return to their own countries by another route thus thwarting the plans of Herod to kill Jesus. From the beginning of his life, Jesus faced opposition and that opposition only grew stronger as Jesus proclaimed a Gospel of radical love that was inclusive of all and forgiving of all. Jesus represented a real threat to the prevailing religious, social and political powers because his Gospel emphasized conformity to compassion before conformity to the law, and the need to place the justice of God before the justice of this world. And as Herod's intent to find Jesus and kill him failed, so too have all efforts to thwart the unfolding of God's reign in human history. A bet on Jesus is a safer bet than a bet on this world!

This great feast day gives us an opportunity for deep and rich reflection!

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

